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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
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To: The Secretary

Through: P - Michael H. Armacost

From: NEA - Edward P. Djerejian, Acting
PM - H. Allen Holmes

Subject: Missile Proliferation in the Near East and South Asia

Saudi Arabia's purchase of Chinese-made CSS-2 ballistic missiles has focused attention on the threat to Middle East stability arising from the acquisition of ballistic missiles by a growing number of regional states. Proliferating chemical warfare and nuclear capability adds to the dangers.

Our policy on missile proliferation has properly been oriented towards a global effort to restrain suppliers. We believe, however, that a regional strategy is needed to cope with the highly volatile Middle East/South Asia problem, perhaps including measures that would not be acceptable on a worldwide basis.

Key elements of such an initiative would be:

-- Strengthened efforts to prevent extra-regional suppliers from contributing to regional missile/CW/nuclear capabilities. This includes continuing serious efforts with the Chinese and Soviets. We would also seek agreement from our Missile Technology Control Regime partners to special scrutiny for missile-related exports to the region, and possibly to tougher restraints on missile technology transfers than are established in the Regime Guidelines.

-- Diplomatic efforts to engage regional states in discussions of the dangers posed by missile/CW/nuclear proliferation and the need for restraint. Our periodic politico-military consultations with several regional countries would be one appropriate forum for such discussions.

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-- Public diplomacy and consultation with Congress to build pressure against missile/CW proliferation and gain support for Administration policy, while seeking to head off unproductive punitive actions.

These concepts are spelled out in greater detail in the paper attached at Tab A. We have included proposals for initiatives with specific countries in the region.

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VARTY
NAMES Armacost, Michael H.
ORGAN United States. Congress
ORGAN Missile Technology Control Regime
RTERM
KEYWD Missile proliferation
KEYWD CSS-2 Missiles
KEYWD Intermediate-range ballistic missiles
KEYWD China (People's Republic) arms transfers to Saudi Arabia
KEYWD Nuclear weapons
KEYWD Chemical weapons
KEYWD Soviet Union
ABS Suggests strategy for controlling proliferation of missile, chemical warfare and nuclear weapons technologies in Middle East and South Asia